

The John Carroll Review

Volume 71 | Issue 1

Article 22

April 2017

A Mature Tete-a-Tete

Anthony Shoplik

John Carroll University, ashoplik18@jcu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://collected.jcu.edu/jcr>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Shoplik, Anthony (2017) "A Mature Tete-a-Tete," *The John Carroll Review*: Vol. 71 : Iss. 1 , Article 22.

Available at: <http://collected.jcu.edu/jcr/vol71/iss1/22>

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the Student at Carroll Collected. It has been accepted for inclusion in The John Carroll Review by an authorized editor of Carroll Collected. For more information, please contact connell@jcu.edu.

THE MATURE TETE-A-TETE

Anthony Shoplik

“How’s it going, _____ (insert 3-4 letter name of gentleman who works for _____
{insert job paying between \$77-145k/yr})”

Now let’s have an adult conversation and shake our heads and say things like:

“That’s too bad!”

Or

“Did you hear what happened to _____?” And then say

“I remember when I was _____ (insert any age younger than 40- because that was the end
of the “Glory Days {oh, they’ll pass you by})”

And let’s watch and listen to each other carefully

So that we can report back to our spouses on the car ride home

Because neither of us can think of anything new to say.

But back to our colloquy:

I’ll look at you and you can look at me and we can

Sip our coffee at work

Our beer at home and

Our wine (or scotch, depending on income) everywhere else (Church,
ceremonies, etc.).

And “I’ll tell you what!”

But (smiling) you never will!

And “you know something else?”

But I never did find out!

And oh, THE CHILDREN!

“Little ____ (insert Irish name, one of the gospel writers, or any biblical name – and you
can add a “y” to the end {like – why do they have to do this} – i.e. Danny, Johnny, or
Davey – Hanny, {umm...I might’ve dropped the ball on this part – sincerest apologies},
or Rachy) is growing up so fast!

S/He’s gonna be a _____ (insert desirable profession based solely on income {which
necessarily must be higher than the father’s}) someday, I can already see it!”

And

“She’s doing great in school! Highest test scores and on the student government-

He’s the quarterback and-

She was prom queen-“

And then

We’ll whisper about the teen mom or the overdoser like we are performing some sort of
service by never allowing their “y”-less name to slip from our lips or see the light of day
by using our indoor voices

And then we have another sip of our coffee/beer/wine (scotch?) because

“Life’s too short” and

Before you know it the nursing home is full of progeny who are priced by their success
and spited with their failures and the next generation does the same thing and life’s too
short because-

You never told me.